

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A data structure comprising:

5 at least one record including  
a primary key data field,  
an owner data field for indicating the owner of the  
record,  
a workplace context data field for storing data  
10 indicating the context in which other data within the at least  
one record is interpreted, and  
at least one other data field for storing the other  
data.

2. A system for managing a bill of materials comprising:

a data structure including

at least one record having  
a primary key data field,  
an owner data field for indicating the owner of  
the record, the owner data field including data representative of  
one of a plurality of owners, and  
at least one other data field.

3. A system for managing a bill of materials comprising:

25 a database including

a single namespace; and  
at least one record having  
a primary key data field,  
an owner data field for indicating the owner of  
30 the record, the owner data field including data representative of  
one of a plurality of owners, and  
at least one other data field.